

Erika of Sumas; her son Stanislav of Nakhodka and two grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my condolences as well as that of my staff to her family. She was loved by many and will be missed by all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. RYUN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for several roll call votes yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted no on roll call votes 156, 157, 158, 159 and yes on roll call vote 160.

HEROES

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to honor and thank the residents of Bakersville, NC for their participation in a rescue that saved the life of a neighbor and defined a true community. On Wednesday, January 7, 1998, Joe Snyder, a resident of the 10th district of North Carolina, suffered a severe heart attack in his home. Meanwhile, the small town of Bakersville was experiencing severe flooding caused by torrential rains, which closed roads and stranded residents. Despite the harsh weather, once neighbors and friends heard of Mr. Snyder's condition, they worked together and successfully transported him to a medical clinic to get the attention he so desperately needed. Not just one neighbor or two friends, but many members of the community united to offer CPR, transportation, and other support.

To the people who were present that day, who volunteered their support and aid, and who helped to turn a tragedy into triumph, I salute your determination and selflessness. As flood waters rose, conditions became extremely perilous, and a friend was in need of a miracle, the community of Bakersville, NC, came together as neighbors to save a life.

TRIBUTE TO THE ISRAEL'S 50TH GALA HONOREES

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding collection of individuals for their unwavering commitment to the Jewish community in Los Angeles and their support of Israel throughout its 50 years. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Mr. and Mrs. Eric Alon, Ms. Lily Artenstein, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Davidov, Mr. and Mrs. Shimon Erem, Mr. and Mrs. Jona Goldrich, Mr. Jonathan Mitchell and Ms. Gal Haas, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sandel, Mr. and Mrs. Yehochai Schneider, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Shapow, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Shepherd, Dr. and

Mrs. Jose Spiwak and Mr. and Mrs. Ike Starkman for their innovative leadership of the years.

The Talmud states "He who does charity and justice is as if he had filled the whole world with kindness." In the spirit of these words, these leaders have infused Israel and Los Angeles with a sense of purpose and pride. Through their work, they have upheld the Judaic tradition of generosity and concern for others. Their exceptional leadership has been instrumental in laying the foundation for a strong and cohesive Jewish community in the City of Los Angeles.

In August of 1897, over a century ago, the first Zionist Congress affirmed its aspiration to form a Jewish homeland in the historic State of Israel. After the horrors of the Holocaust, in which one-third of the Jewish population of the world lost their lives, the Jewish people returned to their ancient homeland and established the State of Israel.

Since the Nation's founding, over a million Jews from throughout the world have sought refuge in Israel. Over the last 50 years, Israel has rebuilt a nation, maintained a pluralist democracy—the only one in the Middle East—and based that democracy on freedoms and the rule of law. It has developed a thriving economy and society, transforming the desert into a land of milk and honey.

The State of Israel was formed in the face of tremendous adversity. Its survival has depended upon the support and involvement of people such as these special leaders. I rise today to congratulate these leaders along with the people of Israel on the 50th anniversary of their rebirth and independence.

CONGRATULATING JAMES MOSEMAN AND FINALISTS OF THE 19TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ARTS COMPETITION

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, James Moseman, who attends Marion High School and has won first place in the 19th Congressional District Arts Competition. James was also the winner of the People's Choice Award, along with Trenton Kessler of Stewardson-Strasburg High School.

I was very proud to be honorary chairman of this distinguished event, which was held at Eastwood's Art and Teacher Supply Store in Marion. We had many outstanding contributions from high school students throughout the district. All the entries displayed so much beauty and potential, including finalists Sarah Thompson and Jill Zerrusen, both of Teutopolis High School; Kristin Jankowicz of MacArthur High School in Decatur; Shannon Gonzalez of Neoga High School; Ginnie Gsell of Benton High School; and Gabe McClellan and Candace Taylor, both of Marion High School.

I would like to thank the steering committee members for organizing the district competition. Mary Jo Trimble of the Little Egypt Arts Association and Cary Knoop, a retired Eastern Illinois University arts instructor, were instrumental in helping plan this special event. The

judges for the contest, art educators Robert Maguire, Marie Samuel and Rebecca Spoon, also deserve special recognition.

As you know Mr. Speaker, this contest is held every year, after which the winner's paintings are proudly displayed in the United States Capitol building. James' excellent work will be exhibited along with other paintings from around the country, and I am honored to represent James and the other participants in the House of Representatives.

It is wonderful to not only see the incredible talents our youth possess, but also to be a part of the exciting events which showcase these talents. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing James and the finalists from the 19th Congressional District Arts Competition.

HIV/AIDS VACCINE AWARENESS DAY

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we are at an important crossroad in the history of the AIDS epidemic. Although dramatic new treatments and improvements in care for people living with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, have offered new hope in the AIDS fight, the number of new infections continues to rise among adolescents, women, and minority communities. In fact, about half of new HIV infections occur in young people age 15–24—our future generation. It is clear that the only way to halt the continued spread of this disease is by developing an AIDS vaccine.

"Only a truly effective, preventive HIV vaccine can limit and eventually eliminate the threat of AIDS . . . let us commit ourselves to developing an AIDS vaccine within the next decade," President Clinton stated one year ago today. We are closer now than ever before to developing a vaccine that prevents people from becoming infected with HIV. Recent scientific advances coupled with the dedication of thousands of volunteers suggests that the development of a vaccine is feasible. The anniversary of President Clinton's commitment to this goal will be marked by the first HIV/AIDS Vaccine Awareness Day, a national day dedicated to informing people about the vaccine initiative and its role in the fight against the AIDS epidemic in our communities. Enormous challenges remain in our effort to develop a safe and effective HIV/AIDS vaccine, and we, as a community must seize this opportunity to meet these challenges.

Seattle has played an integral role in the development of an AIDS vaccine. The AIDS Vaccine Evaluation Unit (AVEU) at the University of Washington is one of only six centers in the U.S. funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct AIDS vaccine testing. Established 10 years ago, the AIDS Vaccine Evaluation Unit has benefited immeasurably from the dedicated participation of more than 650 community volunteers.

The AVEU volunteers are critical to the pursuit of an AIDS vaccine for many reasons, most notably the scientific and social challenges this vaccine presents. Volunteers are between the ages of 18 and 60, HIV-negative, and in good health. These community volunteers have made a very personal commitment